

Speaker some authority rather than allowing it to be an empty title like it has been. Not only before I was elected here but in my observation of the body when I was outside looking in. I support recommendation number one.

PRESIDENT: There was a call for the question by someone. Who called for the question? Senator Simon called for the question. I see five seconds. The question is shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 14 nays, to cease debate Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as the present chairman of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee, and not attempting to protect that position for myself but those that would succeed, I really do not see the merit presently in taking the responsibility from a Committee which I feel, contrary to Senator Koch's comments, is functioning well. We did at the time I was elected chairman of this Committee make a decision by the majority of the members in that Committee that we would meet and consider travel requests individually as a Committee. At the same time that we made this decision, we did give consideration to allowing the Chairman of that Committee to make those determinations but it was felt that a more democratic way to handle the requests would be through Committee action and I think that it has worked quite well. Now, perhaps everyone has not been satisfied with all the decisions that were reached on this Committee as far as travel requests go but we have attempted to be objective in making our decisions. I think that the Committee system is a good one. No one has made mention of the fact to me or I don't believe to other committee members that they are displeased with the way the Committee is functioning. I think it is a democratic process. It allows for considerable input of a number of members as it pertains to these requests. My concern is, and not with present Speaker Luedtke, but perhaps a successor would be in a position to show considerable favoritism for travel requests that are made and for that reason I feel that the Committee system indeed is a better one. A more democratic one and one that I think will serve the body well.

PRESIDENT: Senator Don Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise strongly in support of these new proposed changes. I don't think I could be classified really as a wild eyed liberal that's stampeding to change for the sake of change. I don't think it has any reflection at all on the existing Intergovernmental Committee and it's chairman because I think it's chairman has done one heck of a good job and of course, I'd like to take part of that credit because I'm on that Committee. But, Senator Clark was concerned about putting this power in one man but, you know, essentially we do this all the way through the interim. I think he voted last year to let the Chairman handle it completely all the way through the interim and I think probably that's the most...easiest way to facilitate this. I think we need to strengthen the power of our Speaker and I think...and this is one way we can do it. I think we have an